Narodne novine. Zbornik uz 170.
obljetnicu neprekinutoga izlaæenja
1835.-2005. (Narodne novine.
An Anthology Marking the 170th
Anniversary of Uninterrupted Publication, 1835-2005). Ivan
Bekavac (ed.), Narodne novine
d.d.: Zagreb 2005, 381 pages

*= Slavko MATIHEVIÊ
1. PERIÊ, Ante TrumbiÊ na dalmatinskom političkom po-
petku (Ante Trumbić in the Dalmatian Political Atnca),
2. PERIÊ, Mi{l}adi Supilo (The Young Supilo), Skolska knji-
gi, Zagreb 1996.
3. PERIÊ, Ante RadiÊ 1868-1919: Etograf, knjiæevnik,
politiËar (Ante Radić 1868-1919: Ethnographer, Writer and
Politician), Dom i svijet, Zagreb 2002.
4. PERIÊ, Stjepan RadiÊ 1871-1928, Dom i svijet, Zagreb
2003.

big anniversaries are always proper occa-
sions to raise a glass in honour of the one
celebrating and to wish them success in
the future, but also to draw a line and analyse
the achieved. Seventeen decades of uninter-
rupted publication of a newspaper is a rare jubilee not
only in Europe but also the world, which can
leave no one indifferent, least of all those who
are well aware of the importance of the media
today. The path of Narodne novine from Zagreb
has been marked by revolts, both World
Wars, and the rises and falls of world ideolo-
gies — Fascism, Communism and National Socialism.
Both its editors and contributors not only wit-
tessed, but also frequently actively partook in
the turbulent changes of Central Europe in both
the 19th and 20th centuries — from the trans-
formation of the Habsburg State into the dualis-
tically constituted Austro-Hungarian Monarchy
to the centralistic KaradordeviÊ Yugoslavia and
the Ustasha’s Independent State of Croatia, from
the Communist Yugoslav federation to the sov-
eign Republic of Croatia. Wishing to mark the
170th anniversary of Narodne novine — the of-
icial state newspaper of the Republic of Croatia
— becomingly, Narodne novine Plc. — owned
by the Republic of Croatia — invited numerous
scientists (historians, linguists, lawyers, etc.),
and its former and current employees to con-
tribute to highlighting some of the most outstand-
ing pages in the newspaper’s history.
The “Introduction” by Zdravko SimunoviÊ, President of the Board of Managers of Narodne
novine Plc., and the “Foreword” by Vladimir
Šeks, current President of the Croatian Parlia-
ment, are followed by an in-depth study by Ana
and Ivo PeriÊ entitled “Narodne novine 1835-
2005. Povijesni prikaz” (Narodne novine 1835-
forth from the fact that newspapers are, in the
total sense of the word, collections of information
on people and events shaping our past and
greatly defining the signposts of both our pre-
ent and future, and presenting a historic outline
of the life of Narodne novine to the readers, the
two authors rightly claim that “the beginning of
the newspaper’s publication meant the begin-
nings of the struggle for the institution of a mod-
ern Croatian state”.

Sandu Ham’s text entitled “Uloga Narodnih
novina u oblikovanju hrvatskoga knjiæevnoga
jezika u 19. st.” (“The Role of Narodne novine in
Shaping the Croatian Standard Language in
the 19th century”, pp. 165-179) underlines the sig-
nificance of Narodne novine and its literary sup-
plement Danica in shaping the Croatian stan-
dard language. The authors correctly empha-
sises that the orthographic-linguistic reforms
introduced in both Narodne novine and Danica
continue to exist in the very fundaments of the
contemporary Croatian language even today.

In the article “Hrvatsko pravno nazivlje i
uloga Narodnih novina u njihovu usavrπavanju”
(“Croatian Legal Terminology and the Role of
Narodne novine in Its Improvement”, pp. 180-
190) its author Mile MarinÊ points out the fact
that the newspaper has tremendously contribu-
ted to the Croatian legal language.

In his “fragmentary observations and im-
pressions”, Dubravko JelÊick talks about “Narod-
ne novine. As It Once Was” (“Narodne novine,
kaôove su nekad bile”, pp. 187-191). What he as
a “passionate reader” notices is the fact that this
long-lived Croatian newspaper also had its pe-
culiarities. Namely, Narodne novine, the once
official newspaper of the Croatian-Slavonian
Government, was contributed to by A. G. MatoÊ,
adolescent persecuted by the aforesaid Govern-
ment in virtue of the law yet at the same time
paid by the same Government for his contribu-
tions to the official government newspaper. As
JelÊick judiciously points out, this peculiarity from
the history of Narodne novine is most definitely to
be credited to Janko Ibl, the then editor-in-
chief.
The text penned by the Croatian bards and
academicians Dragutin TadijanoviÊ recounts a
number of his recollections of the people and
events from the time when he worked as a
proofreader in Narodne novine (pp. 197-200).

The article by Petar KlariÊ “Ignorantia iuris
nocet” (Ignorance of Law is Harmful”, pp. 203-

In his article entitled “Narodne novine — čuvar hrvatskoga jezika i zakona” (“Narodne novine — The Safeguard of the Croatian Language and Law”), pp. 215-222 Zvonimir Šeparović points to the fact that Narodne novine is, without doubt, an “established, important and old national institution”.

Pero Jurković briefly reminds readers of his collaboration with the Board of Editors of Narodne novine on the publication of professional literature from the field of economics in a paper bearing the title “Prvca goliota teorija ekonomskie analize” (“The First Complete Theory of Economic Analysis”), pp. 225-224.

In the 1990s Narodne novine Plc. also published several titles from the field of historiography. This is discussed by Lujo Martetić in his text entitled “Moji radovi o ranj hrvatskoj povijesti i Narodne novine” (“My Papers on Early Croatian History and Narodne novine”), pp. 225-226.

Zoran Jasić considers Narodne novine to be one of “the most significant institutions in recent Croatian history” in his text entitled “Narodne novine — jedan od najvažnijih segmenta institucionalne strukture” (“Narodne novine — One of the Most Significant Segments of Institutional Structure”), pp. 227-228.

Narodne novine in the publishing of the journal Naša Zakonost (Our Legality) is reflected on by Jadranko Črnić in his text under the title “Skica za povijest časopisa (Naša) Zakonost” (“An Outline of the History of Our Legality”), pp. 229-240.


The appendix, “Popis knjiga kojep so objavili nakladnici Narodnih novina 1898-2005.” (“List of Books Published by Narodne novine Plc. Between 1838 and 2005”), pp. 313-375, was prepared by Goranka Mitrović.


In 2003 Matica hrvatska initiated a scientific project under the title XX. stoljeću (20th Century) by having organised symposia and having introduced a series of collected papers and studies bearing the same name. In 2006 two extensive volumes were published in the Series: the second bears the title Hrvatski jezik (The Croatian Language, the 2005 symposium) and the first (on politics) is here discussed. The book opens with a short inductive “Foreword” by the editor, which is followed by 19 papers (with introductory summaries in Croatian and closing summaries in English, the texts are not identical), and it closes with an index of names (which must have been omitted from the “Contents” by mistake).

Highlighting that the goal of this first symposium was “to provide a grounded and truthful assessment of 20th century Croatian politics based on detailed and in-depth analyses of some of its segments”, in his foreword the editor expresses his regrets — primarily because of the conception of the symposium — over the fact that not all the symposium participants submitted their papers in writing. In other words, Ljubomir Antić rightly holds that “the absence of some papers interferes vitally with one’s insight into the issue as a whole”. As the book does not bring the programme of the symposium and the participants are only listed in the “Foreword”, readers cannot know the titles of the papers presented by D. Bilandžić and D. Rolandskić. The editor can only assume what the titles are in the light of their thus far scientific interests. Moreover, even a superficial look at the book’s contents reveals that some significant topics are missing papers, for instance, on the activities of the “Party” (KPS, SKJ, KPH/KSP) and on the history of the Serbian people in Croatia. The absence of these papers also significantly diminishes one’s full insight. What a shame!

Despite all the differences in their views and accents, the authors considered their papers synthetically. While their minute sequence in the book is chronological, surveys “by centuries” are common (although mere calendrical “turns of the centuries” as such do not either factually or actually “turn anything”). Any such survey is generally accepted convention and a silent agreement on a, nevertheless, allowed “dissection” of the historical succession of events. This practice is — in part — the result of the readers’ demand. After all, it is only wise to adjust the reception reasons to the internal logic of individual scientific disciplines, since here no journal (nevertheless, mostly) serving for communication within the profession is being discussed. The purpose of this edition is different. In actual fact, it does not contain any “dissection”, as it is successfully overcome by Nićšća Stanić’s introductory text that logically connects the 19th with the 20th century by embracing the line of the process of “Croatian national integration” — as given in part in the title itself — on its “rhythms, Ideologies, Politics” (“Ritmovi, ideologije, politike”). This is followed by Ljubomir Antić’s text focusing on one of the essential aspects of the national-integrative issue — “Nacionalna ideologija jugoslavenskij kod Hrvata u 20. stoljeću” (“The National Ideology of Yugoslavism in 20th Century Croatia”). Given the chosen sequence, a paper on the national ideologies in Croatia that rejected Yugoslavism would have superbly fitted in as third, but it seems that nobody tackled this topic at the symposium. Thus, what follows are “Hrvatska politika u Prvome svetskom ratu” (“Croatian Politics in World War I”) by Hrvoje Matevski and “Kotolčka crkva i hrvatskih politiku u 20. stoljeću” (“The Catholic Church in 20th Century Croatian Politics”) by Jure Krsto. The following two texts deal with peasantry — “Selo i politika. Politizacija hrvatskog seljstva 1918-1941.” (“The Countryside and Politics. The Politicalisation of the Croatian Peasantry, 1918-1941”) by Suzana...